

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2005
Jefferson City, Missouri

Members in attendance: Senator Frank Barnitz, Craig Borchelt, Loretta Charleston, Rep. David Pearce, Kent Thomas, Robert L. Welling, Rep. Terry L. Witte, Dalton Wright.

Others attending: Brig. Gen. King E. Sidwell, Adjutant General, Aaron Washburn (for Senator Koster), W. Jason Van Eaton, State Director for Sen. Bond, Donna Spickert State Capitol Office Director for Sen. Talent, Jared Craighead, Senior Policy Analyst for Gov. Blunt, Randa Hayes Director Business Development & Trade, Stacey Hirst Budget & Planning Manager, Sharon Gulick, Marketing Specialist, Elizabeth Bax, Marketing Specialist, Mike Mills, DED Deputy Director, Paul Sloca DED Director of Communications, Brian Grace, DED Policy Director.

Randa Hayes, Director of DED's Business Development and Trade Division called the meeting to order.

Enabling Legislation

Rep. David Pearce provided the members with an overview of SB252. The goals of the legislation are to make Missouri more military friendly, poise Missouri to retain the military presence that we currently have and to plan for the future.

SB252 has three main components:

- Establishes the commission
- Provides for planning and zoning around Whiteman Air Force Base
- Allows military dependents to attend Missouri colleges and universities on an in-state tuition rate

Rep. Pearce also went over the Commission's mandate as set out in the legislation:

- The commission is to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on military issues and economic and industrial development related to military issues.
- Make recommendations regarding:
 - Developing policies and plans to support the long-term viability and prosperity of the military in Missouri.
 - Develop methods to improve private and public employment opportunities for former members of the military.
 - Develop methods to assist defense-dependent communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance a community's relationship with military installations and defense-related businesses.
- Provide information to communities, the General Assembly, the state's congressional delegation and state agencies regarding federal actions affecting military installations and missions.

- Serve as a clearinghouse for:
 - Defense economic adjustment and transition information and activities
 - Information concerning:
 - Issues related to the operating costs, missions, and strategic value of federal military installations located in the state
 - Employment issues for communities that depend on defense bases and in defense-related businesses
 - Defense strategies and incentive programs that other states are using to maintain, expand and attract new defense contractors.
- Assist communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance community relationships with military installations and defense-related businesses, including regional alliances that may extend over state lines.
- Prepare a biennial strategic plan that
 - Fosters the enhancement of military value of the contributions of Missouri military installations to national defense strategies
 - Considers all current and anticipated base realignment and closure criteria
 - Develops strategies to protect the state's existing military missions and positions the state to be competitive for new and expanded military missions

In addition, the Commission is required to submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31st of each year. Rep. Pearce suggested that the Commission members consider moving up the deadline for the annual report to coincide with the December 1st filing date for legislation.

Jared Craighead, from Governor Blunt's office, told the Commission members that the Governor is committed to the important role of the Commission and hopes to impact some of the Pentagon's recommendations regarding BRAC. The Governor's goal is to protect Missouri's military facilities.

BRAC Commission Hearing in St. Louis

The federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) will hold a public hearing in St. Louis on June 7th. This will be one of the Commission's largest hearings, covering Missouri, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky.

Senator Bond and other members of the congressional delegation have asked that the hearing be postponed until all of the requested information related to justification for the closures and realignment is released by the Pentagon. Governor Blunt has also made a similar request.

[NOTE: shortly after the meeting adjourned we were notified that the hearing had been postponed until June 20th.]

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and each state has 2 hours to present testimony. Senator Bond has submitted a list of speakers that includes the 131st Air

National Guard Fighter Wing among other units. Governor Blunt is also scheduled to testify before the commission.

DED staff will draft a letter, for the Commission's Chair to sign, citing the impact of the closures and realignment, concern about the lack of prior consultation and indicate the support of the Governor and congressional delegation, etc.

131st Air National Guard Fighter Wing at Lambert Field

A lengthy discussion of the 131st Air National Guard Fighter Wing at Lambert Field ensued. Brig. Gen. Sidwell told the members that 9 of the aircraft are scheduled to go to Atlantic City and 6 are scheduled to go to Nellis in Nevada; however, the base at Lambert won't be closed. About 500 personnel (250 Guard and 250 private) will be impacted by the realignment of the base. About 700 ECS could be left at the base in case a new non-flying mission would be assigned, but they would have nothing to support right now. The base provides approximately \$136 million in economic impact to the state. Senator Bond is focusing his efforts on the homeland security aspect of the base as the BRAC Commission has indicated that their decisions will not be swayed by the economic impact of their decisions.

The question was posed that we can make a strong argument for Fort Leonard Wood (it has space to expand, has commands no one else wants); Whiteman Air Force Base (has space, only hangers for the B2); Rosecrans (specializes in flying and mapping); but can we make a similar type of argument for Lambert? Moving the base may present challenges in retaining skilled National Guard pilots – e.g., they may not be willing to relocate to New Jersey or Nevada.

U.S. Army Human Resource Command (HRC), St. Louis

The U.S. Army Human Resource Command (HRC) in Virginia is currently in a facility that is too small and the Army is looking to combine operations into a single, non-leased, location.

The St. Louis property was built in 1991 and it has about 15% of its space open. It was built specifically for HRC, but it is leased to the GSA for about \$7 million per year. DOD is seeking to move away from as much leased space as possible so the lease in St. Louis is a potential problem.

The BRAC recommendation is to co-locate the HRC functions at Ft. Knox; however this will require that a facility be built (est. cost \$60 million) at Ft. Knox.

GSA has said that if HRC moves out of the facility in St. Louis, it will declare the property as "excess" and it could be made available to local government entities.

Election of Commission Officers

Rep. Pearce nominated Dalton Wright to serve as Commission Chair. Robert Welling seconded the nomination. Approved unanimously.

Robert Welling then nominated Rep. David Pearce to serve as Commission Vice-Chair and Kent Thomas seconded the nomination. Approved unanimously.

Future Meetings

The members discussed the need to visit some of the impacted facilities and requested that future meetings be set in St. Louis, Fort Leonard Wood and Kansas City/Whiteman. An optional tour of the facility will be offered prior to each meeting. The affected facilities will provide the Commission members with a briefing on their facility as a SWOT analysis of their facility and community prior to the meeting at their location. DED staff will prepare briefings for the Commission members from information gathered at each local meeting. This information will be used at the August and September Commission meetings.

The following meeting dates and locations were set:

June 29 – St. Louis at 131st Air National Guard Fighter Wing at Lambert Field
July 12 & 13 – Kansas City and Whiteman Air Force Base
July 26 – Ft. Leonard Wood

August 25 – Jefferson City
September 13 – Jefferson City

Staff will work to set the time, location and other arrangements and will notify members of the details as soon as possible.

Consultant

The commission members discussed the need to hire a consultant to handle data gathering and other research for the Commission.

Kent Thomas moved and Robert Welling seconded the motion to hire a consultant.

DED will evaluate candidates and make recommendations to the Commission. If necessary Commission members will be polled, by e-mail or phone, by DED on their choice of vendor.

The consultant would be tasked through at least the current BRAC process, but the Commission needs to look forward to the next phase. It was suggested that DED staff obtain information from Whiteman and FLW on their consultants.

Motion Approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes approved as corrected: 29 June 2005



Dalton Wright, Commission Chair